



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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KING MACKEREL TRIP LIMIT INCREASED TO 75 FISH PER DAY FOR COMMERCIAL HOOK-AND-LINE VESSELS FISHING IN THE FLORIDA EAST COAST SUBZONE

The daily vessel trip limit is increased to 75 fish beginning 12:01 a.m., February 1, 2003, for commercial hook-and-line vessels fishing for Gulf group king mackerel in the Florida east coast subzone. The 75-fish daily trip limit will remain in effect until March 31, 2003, unless the subzone's quota is reached and the fishery is closed prior to that date. If the 1,040,625-pound quota is harvested during February or March 2003, the subzone will be closed and the daily trip limit reduced to zero king mackerel until the 2002/2003 season ends on March 31, 2003. Such a closure would be effective upon filing the notification

mackerel in the Florida east coast subzone. From November 1 through March 31, the Florida east coast subzone of the Gulf group king mackerel is that part of the eastern zone north of 25° 20.4' N. lat. (a line directly east from the Miami-Dade/Monroe County, Florida, boundary). From April 1 through October 31, the Atlantic group king mackerel occurs in this area. During the latter period, the boundary separating the Gulf and Atlantic migratory groups of king mackerel is shifted from the east coast to the west coast of Florida to 25° 48' N. lat. (a line directly west from the Monroe/Collier County, Florida, boundary). Please

with the Office of the Federal Register.

In compliance with the Federal regulations for Gulf group king mackerel, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) increased the trip limit from 50 to 75 king mackerel per day after determining that less than 75 percent (or 478,469 pounds) of the 1,040,625-pound quota would be harvested for this fishery segment before February 1, 2003. The 75-fish trip limit is a daily landing/possession limit that applies to commercial vessels fishing for king

see figures below.

A vessel fishing under the commercial trip limits and quotas for king mackerel must possess on board a valid Federal commercial vessel permit for king mackerel. Quotas, trip limits (see reverse side of this bulletin), and permits implemented under the Fishery Management Plan for Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources of the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic (FMP) are necessary to protect and rebuild the Gulf group king mackerel resource.

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: SEASONAL BOUNDARIES OF FLORIDA SUBZONES

See previous page for figures

GULF GROUP KING MACKEREL: STATUS OF QUOTAS AND DAILY TRIP/LANDING LIMITS FOR COMMERCIAL FISHERIES FOR THE 2002/2003 FISHING YEAR

ZONE/SUBZONE	QUOTA (POUNDS, lb)	DAILY VESSEL TRIP LIMITS	DURATION OF TRIP LIMITS			STATUS	
						BEGINNING	CURRENT
EASTERN ZONE (Florida)	2,250,000						
East Coast Subzone ¹	1,040,625	50 Fish 75 Fish ²	Nov 1, 02 Feb 1, 03	until until	780,469 lb 1,040,625 lb	Opened: Nov 1, 02	Open: 75 Fish/Day
West Coast Subzones	1,209,375						
<u>Northern</u>							
Hook and Line	168,750	1,250 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Nov 30, 02	until until	126,563 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Nov 30, 02
<u>Southern</u>							
Hook and Line	520,312	1,250 lb 500 lb	Jul 1, 02 390,234 lb	until until	390,234 lb 520,312 lb	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Open: 1,250 lb/day
Gillnet	520,312	25,000 lb	Jan 21, 03	until	520,312 lb	Opened: Jan 21, 03 ³	Open: 25,000 lb/day
WESTERN ZONE (Texas - Alabama)	1,010,00	3,000 lb 0 lb	Jul 1, 02 Oct 25, 02	until until	1,010,000 lb Jul 1, 03	Opened: Jul 1, 02	Closed: Oct 25, 02
Hook and Line							

¹ The Florida east coast subzone, located between the Flagler/Volusia and Miami-Dade/Monroe County boundaries, exists only from November 1 through March 31, when the Gulf migratory group of king mackerel extends into that area. From April 1 through October 31, king mackerel landed in that area belong to the Atlantic migratory group.

² Trip limit would increase from 50 to 75 fish/day on February 1, 2003, if less than 75 percent or 780,469 pounds of the Florida east coast subzone quota is harvested prior to February 1, 2003.

³ Fishery was closed until 6:00 a.m., January 21, 2003.

To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day.

To report violations of commercial trip limits or closures, contact NMFS Law Enforcement Division at **727/570-5344 or 1-800/853-1964**. To obtain considerable recorded information about our missions, services, and management measures, call our toll free public service line at 1-866-570-5301. If the information you need is not available on that line, you can leave us a message and we'll get back to you within one business day. NOAA Fisheries is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Additional information on southeastern fisheries may be found on the Web sites of the Gulf of Mexico (<http://www.gulfcouncil.org>) or South Atlantic (<http://www.safmc.nmfs.gov>) Fishery Management Council; they may be contacted by e-mail at gulf.council@noaa.gov or safmc@noaa.gov, respectively.